

LESSON

Sabbath

Do Do the activity on page 11.

Adventure and Challenge

When have you had to deal with difficult people? You want to help them, but they don't seem to want to help themselves. For any variety of reasons you may face challenges. Let's see how Joshua, Caleb, and Moses faced the challenges of leading a stubborn, unfaithful nation. (See Numbers 13:31-33; 14; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 389-394.)

Sunday

Read Read "Adventure and Challenge."

Plan Plan what you will do this week to be of service in a challenging situation as you discussed in Sabbath School.

Learn Begin to memorize the power text.

Pray Pray that God will guide you in service this week for someone.

TWO

POWER POINT

Serving others for God can be an adventure and a challenge.

POWER TEXT

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love"

(Ephesians 4:2, NIV).

"You're lying." Palti stood in front of Joshua, pointed his finger in Joshua's face and repeated his charge. "You're lying." His voice cracked.

Joshua stood in stunned silence.

"We can't attack the Canaanites. They are stronger than we are," Sethur said. "They're giants! Compared to them, we look like grasshoppers."

Caleb stepped forward and silenced them. "Listen to me. We should go up at once and take possession of this land. We can surely do it." In spite of his efforts, arguing and fighting spread like a fog over the entire assembly gathered to hear the spies' report. The fruit they had carried back had caused quite a sensation. This land seemed perfect. It had everything they needed to live well. But now this conflict ruined everyone's enthusiasm.

"The people who live in Canaan are powerful," one spy said. He had forgotten that God is more powerful.

"The cities are fortified and very large," said another. He had forgotten that God had taken them out of Egypt, the strongest nation on the earth.

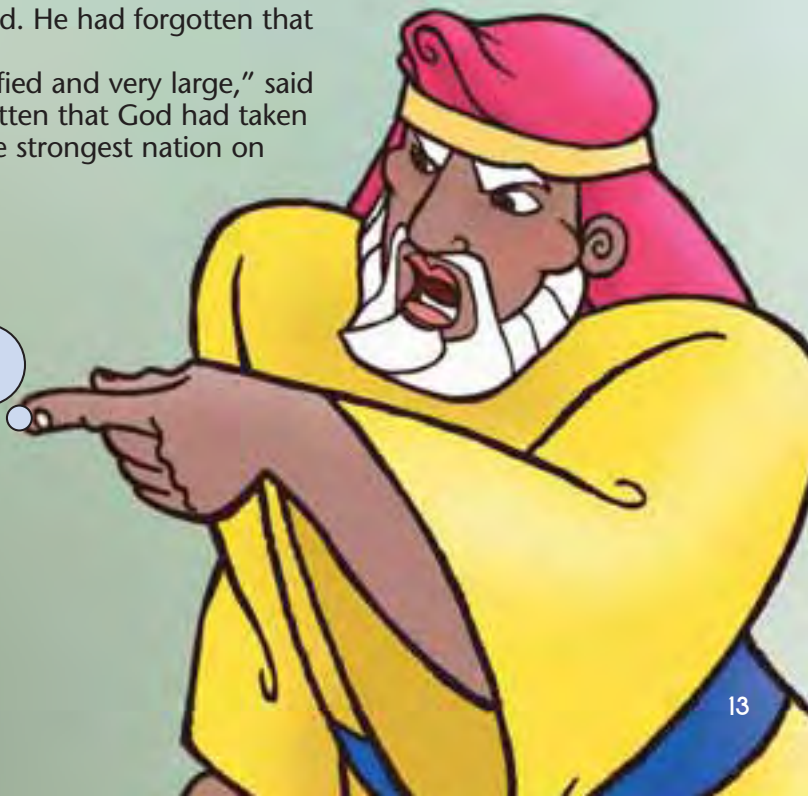
Monday

Read Read Numbers 13:31-33.

Think In doing God's work, have you ever felt like a "grasshopper"? How so?

Record Write or draw that experience in your Bible study journal.

Pray Pray that you will feel strong in your service to God.



Tuesday

Read Read Numbers 14:1-9.

Draw Draw your impression of the scene described in those verses. Include Joshua and Caleb tearing their clothes.

Act Follow through with the commitment you made in Sabbath School to serve someone this week, even though it may be challenging.

Pray Pray that God will bless your efforts as you do your service adventure this week.



Wednesday

Read Read Numbers 14:10-19.

List List the reasons Moses gives that God should not destroy the Israelites.

Think What do these reasons reveal about Moses' understanding of God? Whom was Moses serving in this situation?

Pray Pray that you will have the compassion and long-suffering of Moses.

"We even saw giants living there, the descendants of Anak," said a third. He had forgotten how big God is.

By nighttime the wails of the people filling the air sounded like a gigantic funeral. By morning the people blamed Moses for their misery.

"Why did you bring us out of Egypt?" they demanded. They had forgotten that God, not Moses, had taken them out of Egypt.

"If only we had died in the desert," they said. They had forgotten that God had protected them from death in the desert.

Someone said, "Let's go back to Egypt." Without stopping to think this through, the people decided they should choose a leader to guide them back to the land of slavery. The Hebrew people rejected Moses as their leader. They rejected God as their guide.

Caleb and Joshua tore their clothing and cried, "Don't do this! Don't rebel against God. He promised to give us this land."

"Stone them," someone yelled. Others picked up the cry. "Stone them! Stone them!"

Suddenly the pillar of cloud, God's visible presence, moved to the front of the tabernacle tent. God spoke to Moses. "How long will these people refuse to believe in Me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have



**Thursday**

Read Read Numbers
14:20-35.

Write Pretend that you are one of the members of the Israelite congregation, either older or younger than 20. Write a journal entry describing your feelings about the events that you have experienced in the past 24 hours.

Learn Continue to memorize the power text.

- **Pray** Pray that you will choose to obey God.

performed among them?" It was as though God was asking Moses, "What more do I need to do to prove Myself to them?" Then God said something very unusual. "Moses, I will destroy these people and start over with you. I'll make you into a great nation."

Perhaps God did intend to destroy them all and begin again with Moses. Perhaps God wanted the Hebrew community to realize how much Moses trusted in Him to fulfill all of His promises. Perhaps God wanted to get the attention of the people and turn their hearts toward Him through Moses' love for them.

Moses answered God. "No, O Lord. You cannot do this. If You strike them down, who will believe in You? Who among the Canaanite nations will recognize that You are a God who forgives? No, O Lord. Forgive these people again, just as You have forgiven them so many times before."

Moses' response to God is remarkable because Moses didn't think about himself, but about God. He could have blamed God. He could have let them suffer the consequences of their distrust in God. But Moses didn't respond in any of these ways. His answer to God demonstrated that he loved the Hebrew people in spite of their hurtful words and actions, in spite of their stubborn rebellion. His answer to God demonstrated that he was concerned about God's reputation, not his own.

The terrible sentence finally came to the people camped on the edges of the Promised Land. God said, "Because you have banded against Me, not one of you will enter this land. Only Caleb and Joshua, who trust in Me, will live here someday." Every person 20 years and older would die in the desert, as they had wished. One entire generation gone. One entire generation who didn't get it, who didn't recognize that joy in this life comes from loving God and serving Him as Moses had modeled for them.



Friday

Read Numbers 14:36-45.

Act Help younger children act out the entire spy story at worship. Or tell the story to your family in your own words.

Review Review the power text and the power point.

Pray Pray that you will stay committed to serving God, no matter how difficult the situation.